

DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN PAST VERSIONS OF MATEEN'S CALLS AND THE "TRANSCRIPT"

As promised, DOJ has censored the transcript of Omar Mateen's calls with authorities the night of his attack. There is a discrepancy between Jim Comey's earlier version of the calls and what appears in today's "transcript." Here's what Comey said a week ago.

It is also not entirely clear at this point just what terrorist group he aspired to support; although, he made clear his affinity, at the time of the attack, for ISIL, and generally, leading up to the attack, for radical Islamist groups. He made 911 calls from the club, during the attack, at about 2:30 in the morning, Sunday morning. There were three different calls. He called and he hung up. He called again and spoke briefly with the dispatcher, and then he hung up, and then the dispatcher called him back again and they spoke briefly. There were three total calls.

During the calls he said he was doing this for the leader of ISIL, who he named and pledged loyalty to, but he also appeared to claim solidarity with the perpetrators of the Boston Marathon bombing, and solidarity with a Florida man who died as a suicide bomber in Syria for al Nusra Front, a group in conflict with Islamic State. The bombers at the Boston Marathon and the suicide bomber from Florida were not inspired by ISIL, which adds a little bit to the confusion about his motives.

And here's what FBI says the censored
"transcript" says.

The following is based on Orlando Police
Department (OPD) radio communication
(times are approximate):

- *2:02 a.m.: OPD call transmitted multiple shots fired at Pulse nightclub.*
- *2:04 a.m.: Additional OPD officers arrived on scene.*
- *2:08 a.m.: Officers from various law enforcement agencies made entrance to Pulse and engaged the shooter.*
- *2:18 a.m.: OPD S.W.A.T. (Special Weapons & Tactics) initiated a full call-out.*
- *2:35 a.m.: Shooter contacted a 911 operator from inside Pulse. The call lasted approximately 50 seconds, the details of which are set out below:*

Orlando Police Dispatcher (OD)
Shooter (OM)

OD: Emergency 911, this is being
recorded.

OM: In the name of God the Merciful, the
beneficial [*in Arabic*]

OD: What?

OM: Praise be to God, and prayers as well as peace be upon the prophet of God [in Arabic]. I let you know, I'm in Orlando and I did the shootings.

OD: What's your name?

OM: My name is I pledge of allegiance to [omitted].

OD: Ok, What's your name?

OM: I pledge allegiance to [omitted] may God protect him [in Arabic], on behalf of [omitted].

OD: Alright, where are you at?

OM: In Orlando.

OD: Where in Orlando?

[End of call.]

(Shortly thereafter, the shooter engaged in three conversations with OPD's Crisis Negotiation Team.)

- *2:48 a.m.: First crisis negotiation call occurred lasting approximately nine minutes.*
- *3:03 a.m.: Second crisis negotiation call occurred lasting approximately 16 minutes.*
- *3:24 a.m.: Third crisis negotiation call occurred lasting approximately three minutes.*

In these calls, the shooter, who identified himself as an Islamic soldier, told the crisis negotiator that he was the person who pledged his allegiance to [omitted], and told the negotiator to tell America to stop bombing Syria and Iraq and that is why

he was “out here right now.” When the crisis negotiator asked the shooter what he had done, the shooter stated, “No, you already know what I did.” The shooter continued, stating, “There is some vehicle outside that has some bombs, just to let you know. You people are gonna get it, and I’m gonna ignite it if they try to do anything stupid.” Later in the call with the crisis negotiator, the shooter stated that he had a vest, and further described it as the kind they “used in France.” The shooter later stated, “In the next few days, you’re going to see more of this type of action going on.” The shooter hung up and multiple attempts to get in touch with him were unsuccessful.

In Comey’s original version, there were just 3 calls, and only with the dispatcher, two of which included actual conversation. Now, there are 4 total calls, only one with the dispatcher (and no mention of the hang-up). I’d say the difference stemmed from confusion and a conflation, last week, of all calls with authorities, but there seems to be a counting discrepancy I’d like resolved.

Predictably, the FBI censored details that should have led them to raise questions about Mateen’s invocation of ISIS. It made no mention of what Comey did: that Mateen also invoked al-Nusra and the Tsarnaev brothers (presumably in the calls to the crisis negotiation team), which doesn’t make sense. So rather than elucidating, this “transcript” actually covers over one of the problems with FBI’s reaction.

As noted, there’s also a (more explicable) discrepancy between this “transcript” and what survivor Patience Carter has said (7:16 and following). She said that Mateen said he wanted the US to stop bombing “his country,” which reports on this have interpreted to mean Afghanistan. Given the unbelievable amount of stress she must have been under, I would expect

discrepancies in any case. But since she doesn't specify precisely what he said that she interpreted to mean, "his country," I don't think this is a significant discrepancy.

Update: FBI and DOJ have now released the name Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (calling it the "complete" transcript), but not the other things that would make them look bad.